

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: VFLSPKR DR. WILLIAM GRIFFITH

REF A: USIA 14382 CIRCULAR B. STATE 132976

SUMMARY: DR. GRIFFITH OF MIT MET WITH NINE GDR POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AT THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ENGAGED IN A LIVELY, STIMULATING AND TOPICAL TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION ON DETENTE, EUROPEAN SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, EUROCOMMUNISM AND MODERN WEAPONRY. WHILE THE SEMINAR ENGAGED GRIFFITH IN ALL OF THE PROVOCATIVE THEMES HE RAISED, THE UTMOST CONCERN CENTERED ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHICH GDR PARTICIPANTS INTERPRETED AS BEING DIRECTED AT EAST EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

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1. MIT'S PROFESSOR WILLIAM GRIFFITH ADDRESSED A SEMINAR ON JUNE 24 COMPOSED OF NINE GDR POLITICAL SCIENTISTS DRAWN FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IIR), HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY AND THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE IN A TWO-HOUR NO-PUNCHES-PULLED SESSION OF SOLID SUBSTANCE WHICH COULD NOT HAVE BETTER SERVED USIA'S POLITICAL/SECURITY OBJECTIVE. HEDL AT THE IIR CONFERENCE ROOM, AND CONDUCTED ENTIRELY IN GERMAN, THE SESSION COVERED MANY ASPECTS OF THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIPS, BOTH IN GRIFFITH'S PRESENTATION AND IN THE COUNTER-ARGUMENTS AND

QUESTIONS OF GDR PARTICIPANTS.

2. GRIFFITH BEGAN WITH A HALF-HOUR PRESENTATION WHICH TOUCHED ON SOME OF THE THEMES HE WAS PREPARED TO EXPLORE; DETENTE, EUROPEAN SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, EUROCOMMUNISM, AND NEW WEAPONS OF GREATER PRECISION, SPECIFICALLY THE MARV. HE DESCRIBED THE PRESENT CLIMATE BETWEEN THE US AND USSR BY EMPLOYING AS HE SAID, "A FRENCH WORD" AND SPRANG "MALAISE" ON HIS AUDIENCE. HE IDENTIFIED THE DECLINE OF DETENTE AS BEGINNING WITH ANGOLA, SAW NO LET-UP IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRESSURE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFIRMED MOSCOW'S THOROUGH DISAPPROVAL OF EUROCOMMUNISM AND WENT INTO SOME DETAIL ON THE CRUISE MISSILE, PINPOINTING ITS ACCURACY TO ONE-HUNDRED METERS OVER A DISTANCE OF 5000 KILOMETERS, SAID TO BE REDUCED TO TEN METERS. HE DISCUSSED THE INTEREST OF CONGRESS IN STATIONING CRUISE MISSILES IN THE FRG, EQUATED ITS DEVELOPMENT WITH THE MACHINE-GUN AND ROCKETS AND DROVE HIS POINT HOME BY QUOTING FROM AN EDITORIAL IN THAT DAY'S FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG WHICH BEGAN "THE CRUISE MISSILE OPENS A NEW ERA IN MILITARY WEAPONRY."

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3. THE IIR'S DR. PLAGEMANN BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING THE SEMINAR'S GRATITUDE FOR DR. GRIFFITH'S FRANK AND OPEN EXPOSITION AND THEN REQUESTED QUESTIONS. THEY CAME IN GREAT PROFUSION, OFTEN PREFACED BY LENGTHY STATEMENTS REFLECTING PREDICTABLE POSITIONS BUT NEVER THELESS SCHOLARLY IN APPROACH AND WITH AN ABSENCE OF POLEMICS. IF ANY OF GRIFFITH'S THEMES REMAINED UNADDRESSED BY THE GDR PARTICIPANTS, IT WAS THE QUESTION OF EUROCOMMUNISM, AND WHEN HE AGAIN QUOTED FROM THE FAZ OF THAT DAY REPORTING MOSCOW'S ATTACK ON SPANISH CP CHIEF CARRILLO FOR HIS DEFENSE OF EUROCOMMUNISM, THE IIR'S DEMP IDENTIFIED NOVOYE VREMYA ISSUE NO. 23 AS THE SOURCE OF THE ATTACK BUT NO FURTHER COMMENT WAS MADE. THE EAST BERLIN PRESS JUNE 25/26 CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF THE ARTICLE).

4. THE EXPERTISE OF ONE POLITICAL SCIENTIST, DR. KAUFMANN OF HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY'S ASIAN DEPARTMENT, CAME TO THE FORE WHEN HE DIRECTED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO DR. GRIFFITH ON PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF US POLICY TOWARDS THE PRC AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BUT THE MAIN CONCERNS OF THE GROUP EMERGED UNMISTAKABLY AND DOMINATED MOST OF THE SESSION IN REPEATED QUESTIONING OF DR. GRIFFITH ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH WARNINGS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PERSISTENT PURSUIT OF SUCH POLICIES WAS PROFOUNDLY DETRIMENTAL TO DETENTE AND IF CONTINUED AT BELGRADE WOULD FIND "THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES PREPARED TO RESPOND

IN KIND." WHEN THE IIR'S SCHWEIGER, WHO WENT TO THE U.S. EARLIER THIS YEAR, MAINTAINED THAT THE AMERICAN PRESS SEEMED TO BE OVERY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE PROBLEM F DISSIDENCE IN EAST EUROEP, DR. GRIFFITH COUNTERED WITH THE AGRUMENT THAT HE HAD FOUND THE EUROEPAN PRESS FAR MORE SO, ESPEICALLY LE MONDE, AND SAID HE NEVER EXPECTED TO WITNESS THE DAY, AS HE RECENTLY HAD, WHEN IN THE SAME CITY OF PARIS WHERE GISCARD AND BREZHNEV WERE CONFERRING, AN ANTI-SOVIET MEETING WAS TAKING PLACE  
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ORGANIZED BY SARTRE AND DE BEAUVOIRE, WITH SARTRE AND MARCHAIS PROTESTING THE CANCELLATION OF A FRENCH TV PROGRAM ON SOVIET DISSIDENTS.

5. DR. GRIFFITH NEVER DISPLAYED ANY PARTISAN POLTICIS, BALANCING NIXON-KISSINGER POLICIES WITH THOSE OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HE PLACED IT IN PERSPECTIVE IN AMERICAN HISTORY, CITED THE INSTANCE OF HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION OF 1848 AFTER WHICH LAJOS KOSSUTH WENT TO THE U.S., ADDRESSED BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AND ATTACKED AUSTRIAN TYRANNY. GRIFFITH DESCRIBED THE POLICY OF DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS AS POLITICALLY, MORALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY WITHIN THE AMERICAN CHARACTER AND TRADITION, POINTINR OUT TO HIS AUDIENCE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS A DEEPLY RELIGIOUS MAN.

6. THE GDR PARTICIPANTS WONDERED HOW THE WEST COULD STILL SPEAK OF A SOVIET MILITARY THREAT IN LIGHT OF US WEAPONRY IMPORVEMENTS SUCH AS THE CRUISE MISSILE. DR. KAUFMANN THEN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THATTHE US HAD CHANGED ITS DEFINITION OF DETENTE, ELABORATING THAT THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS HAD MORE OR LESS ACCEPTED PARITY WITH THE EAST AND HAD CONCEIVED OF DETENTE AS MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO. THE US NOW APPEARED TO HAVE ADOPTED A MORE AGGRESSIVE POSE, HOWEVER, USING NEW WEAPONRY(THE CRUISE MISSILE), HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE TO PRESSURE THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. DR. GRIFFITH SUMMED UP KAUFMANN'S ARGUMENT AS SAYING THAT A US POLICY OF CHANGIN THE EAST THROUGH COOPERATION HAD NOW BECOME ONE OF DEMANDING CHANGE BEFORE COOPERATION COULD TAKE PLACE. ONE GDR SCHOLAR ASSERTED THAT THE KEY QUESTION IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS WAS WHETHER THE WEST WOULD ACCEPT  
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PARITY. SEVERAL GDR PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING PLAGEMANN IN HIS CLSOING REMARKS, EMPHASIZED THAT THE EAST FAVORED

DETENTE AND DEFINED IT BROADLY, IT DID NOT JUST MEAN THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR, BUT INCREASED COOPERATION IN MANY AREAS.

7. THE DISCUSSION CONTINUED AT A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE CHARGE AND ATTENDED BY THREE OF THE NINE GDR PARTICIPANTS, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF WHICH FURTHER CONTACTS WERE ESTABLISHED. THE AFOREMENTIOED DR. KAUFMANN SAID HE WISHED TO APPLY FOR AN IREX GRANT TO DO RESEARCH ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE PRC AND WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT DETAILS WHEN HE RETURNED FROM LEAVE. HE WAS AMENABLE TO A VISIT TO HIS SECTION AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY, WHICH HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH HE EMBASSY. DR. ROEDER OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ALSO WELCOMED A VISIT " ONCE IT HAS BEEN CLEARED".

8. IN SUM, DR. GRIFFITH'S PERFORMANCE WAS A SPLENDID EXPOSITION OF AMERICAN POLICIES AS ARTICULATED AND ANALYSED BY A THOUGHT-PROVOKING ACADEMIC AUTHORITY AND A REFRESHING DEMONSTRATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE CLASH OF IDEAS ON MARXIST THINKERS.

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## Message Attributes

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